

To Whom It May Concern:

I am truly troubled by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of one of the dangers of media consolidation.

It appears logical to me that if Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it is then obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, what we get instead is more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our very precious democracy. Instead of something produced at a self-styled "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter and that will facilitate decision making.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, rather than weaken them. They also show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than merely a returned postcard.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments.